

Meanwhile in South Korea

Life in South Korea is fuelled by an unashamedly loud and proud style of capitalism. The country is also officially a constitutional democracy. However, it does have its own political prisoners. South Korea's controversial National Security Law makes it an offense to express sympathies with North Korea; the government even kicked out a foreign national for 'aiding North Korea' just this month. But South Korea ranks as far less corrupt than its northern neighbour. And it's a key ally for western powers - particularly the United States, which still carries out military drills there.

Despite a similar geographical size, South Korea's population (49 million) is almost twice as large as North Korea's (25 million). Due to the poor diet of North Koreans, people there tend to be smaller than South Koreans. This is most visible among school children. Daniel Schwekendiek from Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul estimated the height difference to be "approximately 4 cm (1.6 in) among pre-school boys and 3 cm (1.2 in) among pre-school girls."

The difference in life expectancy is similarly large: while South Koreans on average live to the ripe old age of 79, North Koreans die ten years younger at 69.

It may come as a surprise for some that both countries have severe problems with suicide.

South Korea has seen the most suicides in the "industrialized world for eight consecutive years" with 14,160 suicides in 2012.